

CLAIMS:

1. A method of updating a virus signature database used by anti-virus software operating on a mobile wireless platform, comprising sending update data via a signalling channel of a mobile telecommunications network to the mobile wireless platform.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the update data sent to the mobile wireless platform is a virus signature database update.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the network is GSM or enhanced GSM network.
4. A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the update data is carried by one or more Short Message Service (SMS) messages.
5. A method as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the update data is carried by one or more Unstructured Supplementary Services Data (USSD) message.
6. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the message carrying the update data is cryptographically signed.
7. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the mobile platform comprises a mobile telephone, communicator, PDA, palmtop or laptop computer.
8. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, and comprising sending the update data in response to a request from the mobile platform.
9. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said request identifies the current status of a virus signature database.
10. A method of protecting a wireless device against viruses, comprising:
maintaining a database of virus signatures on the device;

updating the database by receiving data containing virus signatures in one or more Short Message Service (SMS) or Unstructured Supplementary Services Data (USSD) messages; and

searching for virus signatures contained in the database.

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